reporting custodial deaths to avoid any delay in sending the post-mortem and Magisterial Inquairy Reports along with their videography to the Commission within the prescribed time limit. Further the Commission has also emphasized the need to curb the occurrence of custodial deaths to all State Governments.

Village electrification projects

2283. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to electrify 18,000 remote villages through Village Electrification Projects by year 2012;

(b) if so, number of villages to be electrified in Orissa under the Scheme; and

(c) by when, the work under the scheme is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is implementing a programme for the electrification of the estimated 18,000 villages in remote and difficult areas in the country through locally available renewable energy resources like solar, biomass and small hydro power by the year 2012. During the Tenth Plan period, 5,000 such villages are proposed to be electrified.

(b) and (c) The nodal agency for the renewable energy programmes in the state of Orissa i.e. the Orisssa Renewable Energy Development Agency (OREDA) submitted, during 2001-2002, lists of 600 remote and inaccessible census villages in the state for electrification through solar photovoltaic (SPV) systems with 90% central grant. As funding on such a pattern was not available during 2001-2002, the projects could not be sanctioned and the agency was informed accordingly.

High focus area in sundarban

2284. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minsiter of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sundarban area of West Bengal has been declared by MNES as High Focus area with 90 per cent Central financial assistance;

(b) if so, the details of the schemes where such assistance has been sanctioned so far; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) to (c) Sundarban area of West Bengal is considered as a "High Focus Area" for implementation of various Non-conventional energy programmes by the Ministry. The Ministry has not made provisions to provide 90% Central Financial Assistance to the Sunderban area of West Bengal for implementation of non-conventional energy programmes. However, suggestions have been made for extending 90% Central Financial Assistance to some other areas including the Sunderban area of West Bengal.

Subsidy on Bio-gas plants in Himachal Pradesh

2285. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal for enhancement of subsidy on Bio-gas plants in Himachal Pradesh on the pattern of North Eastern States; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action Government have taken or propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Directorate of Agriculture, Government of Himachal Pradesh had sent a proposal in July, 2001 for enhancing the rate of Central subsidy from Rs. 3500/- to Rs. 6,500/- per family type biogas plant under the Central Sector Scheme—National Project on Biogas Development (NPBD). The proposal was not considered justifiable on the basis of estimated capital cost of plants for low hill areas, where the State was largely promoting the plants, which was generally 20 per cent less than that of for North Eastern Region States.